

In the claims:

Please amend the claims as follows:

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1. (Currently amended) An oral device comprising:
a handle;
a head, extending from said handle, having a pair of elongated arms that include opposed surfaces; and
a plurality of pairs of opposed cleaning elements, mounted on said opposed surfaces, the cleaning elements being constructed and positioned to be inserted into the a user's interproximal regions when the oral device is moved back and forth over the user's teeth, each of the cleaning elements being positioned at an acute angle relative to an interproximal line; and
AI a plurality of pairs of centering elements, mounted on said opposed surfaces and positioned to guide the oral device and center it around a tooth, said centering elements being relatively shorter than said cleaning elements.

2. (Original) The oral device of claim 1 wherein at least some of said cleaning elements are positioned to be flexed towards said opposed arms during movement in a first direction, and then straighten out until they are substantially perpendicular to said opposed surfaces during movement in a second, opposite direction.

3. (Cancelled) ~~The oral device of claim 1 wherein the device includes a plurality of pairs of cleaning elements.~~

4. (Currently amended) The oral device of claim 3 1 wherein, on each of the opposed surfaces, each of the cleaning elements extends from the surface at substantially the same angle as the other cleaning elements ~~on the same surface~~.

5. (Currently amended) The oral device of claim 3 1 wherein said pairs of cleaning elements and said opposed surfaces define a pair of opposed brush heads.

6. (Original) The oral device of claim 5 wherein said handle comprises an elongated member.

(7.) (Original) The oral device of claim 5 wherein the opposed cleaning elements of each pair of cleaning elements define a V-shape.

— 8. (Original) The oral device of claim 1 wherein said angle is greater than 10 degrees.

— 9. (Original) The oral device of claim 8 wherein said angle is greater than 15 degrees.

— 10. (Original) The oral device of claim 9 wherein said angle is from about 15 to 40 degrees.

A1 (11.) (Original) The oral device of claim 3 1 wherein the opposed cleaning elements of each pair define a V shape.

(12.) (Original) The oral device of claim 1 ~~comprising at least 2 pairs of cleaning elements~~, wherein said pairs of cleaning elements ~~being~~ are positioned along said opposed surfaces at predetermined intervals.

(13.) (Currently amended) The oral device of claim 12 wherein said pairs of cleaning elements extend from the handle towards the an opposite end of the head in a row.

— 14. (Original) The oral device of claim 13 wherein the cleaning elements are progressively shorter as the pairs are spaced further from the handle.

— 15. (Original) The oral device of claim 14 wherein the cleaning elements of each pair are from 2 to 20% shorter than the cleaning elements of an adjacent pair that is closer to the handle.

(16.) (Currently amended) The oral device of claim 1 wherein said opposed surfaces have a predetermined depth selected to accommodate ~~the~~ front and back teeth of a user.

— 17. (Original) The oral device of claim 16 wherein said depth is from about 5 to 15 mm.

18. (Currently amended) The oral device of claim 1 wherein said handle includes a gripping portion that is constructed to be grasped between ~~the~~ a thumb and first two fingers of a user's hand.

— 19. (Original) The oral device of claim 1 wherein said handle includes a substantially disc-shaped gripping portion.

20. (Original) The oral device of claim 18 wherein said handle includes an elongated shaft, said head is mounted at a first end of said elongated shaft, and said gripping portion is mounted at a second end of said elongated shaft.

A1 — 21. (Original) The oral device of claim 1 wherein said head further comprises a web extending from said handle, and said opposed arms extend outwardly from opposite sides of said web.

— 22. (Original) The oral device of claim 21 wherein said web defines a substantially U-shaped opening that faces away from said handle.

— 23. (Currently amended) The oral device of claim 21 ~~further comprising a~~ wherein said plurality of pairs of centering elements, are positioned on said opposed surfaces between said cleaning elements and said web, ~~for guiding the oral device.~~

— 24. (Original) The oral device of claim 23 wherein the centering elements are positioned so that, in use, at least two centering elements on each side are touching the teeth simultaneously.

— 25. (Original) The oral device of claim 23 wherein said centering elements comprise elastomeric elements.

26. (Original) The oral device of claim 23 wherein said centering elements comprise bristle tufts.

— 27. (Original) The oral device of claim 23 wherein said centering elements are mounted substantially perpendicular to front and back surfaces of the user's teeth.

— 28. (Currently amended) The oral device of claim 12 wherein adjacent pairs of cleaning elements are spaced from 0.5 to 6.0 mm apart lengthwise along ~~the length~~ of said arms.

(29.) (Original) The oral device of claim 1 wherein said cleaning elements comprise bristle tufts.

— 30. (Original) The oral device of claim 1 wherein said cleaning elements comprise elastomeric fins.

A' — 31. (Original) The oral device of claim 29 wherein at least some of the cleaning elements comprise inner, relatively longer thin bristles and outer, relatively shorter and thicker supporting bristles.

— 32. (Original) The oral device of claim 29 wherein said bristles have a diameter of from about 0.003 inch to 0.009 inch.

— 33. (Original) The oral device of claim 21 wherein said cleaning elements are angled away from said web.

— 34. (Original) The oral device of claim 33 wherein said cleaning elements are positioned at an angle of about 10 to 20 degrees with respect to said web.

(35.) (Currently amended) An oral device, constructed to be moved horizontally over the teeth of a user with a ratcheting motion, comprising:

a handle;

a head, extending from said handle, having a pair of elongated arms that include opposed surfaces; and

a plurality of pairs of opposed cleaning elements, mounted on said opposed surfaces, each of the cleaning elements being positioned at an angle of greater than 15 degrees relative to an interproximal line;

wherein at least some of said cleaning elements are positioned and dimensioned so that, during the ratcheting motion, the elements will be flexed towards a distal end of the handle during movement in a first direction, and then straighten out until they are substantially perpendicular to said opposed surfaces during movement in a second, opposite direction .

36. (Cancelled) ~~The oral device of claim 35 wherein at least some of said cleaning elements are positioned to be flexed towards said opposed arms during movement in a first direction, and then straighten out until they are substantially perpendicular to said opposed surfaces during movement in a second, opposite direction.~~

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37. (Cancelled) ~~The oral device of claim 35 wherein the device includes a plurality of pairs of cleaning elements.~~

(38.) (Original) The oral device of claim 35 wherein said angle is from about 15 to 25 degrees.

(39.) (Currently amended) The oral device of claim 37 35 wherein the opposed cleaning elements of each pair define a V shape.

(40.) (Currently amended) The oral device of claim 37 35 wherein said pairs of cleaning elements and said opposed surfaces define a pair of opposed brush heads.

(41.) (Original) The oral device of claim 40 wherein said handle comprises an elongated member.

(42.) (Original) The oral device of claim 40 wherein the opposed elements of each of said pairs of cleaning elements defines a V-shape.

43. (Currently amended) The oral device of claim 35 wherein said opposed surfaces have a predetermined depth selected to accommodate the front and back teeth of a user.

— 44. (Original) The oral device of claim 43 wherein said depth is from about 5 to 15 mm.

45. (Cancelled) ~~An oral device comprising:
a handle that includes a gripping portion constructed to be grasped between the thumb and first two fingers of a user's hand;
a head, extending from said handle, having a pair of elongated arms that include opposed surfaces; and
pairs of opposed cleaning elements, mounted on said opposed surfaces, said pairs of cleaning elements being positioned along said opposed surfaces at predetermined intervals for insertion into the user's interproximal regions.~~

46. (Cancelled) ~~The oral device of claim 45 wherein the gripping portion is substantially disc shaped.~~

47. (Cancelled) ~~The oral device of claim 46 wherein the gripping portion has a thickness of from about 0.5 to 20 mm.~~

48. (Cancelled) ~~The oral device of claim 46 wherein the gripping portion has a diameter of from about 2 to 7 cm.~~

49. (Original) A method of cleaning between the teeth of a human, comprising:
inserting into the mouth an oral device that includes (a) a handle having a first end constructed to be grasped by a user and a second, free end; (b) a head, positioned at said second end of the handle, having a pair of elongated arms, said arms being substantially parallel to each other and having opposed surfaces; and (c) pairs of opposed cleaning elements, mounted on said opposed surfaces, said pairs of cleaning elements being positioned along said opposed surfaces at predetermined intervals, the distance between pairs corresponding substantially to the average spacing between human teeth;

positioning the oral device so that the opposed cleaning elements straddle a row of teeth;
pushing the oral device slowly toward the back of the mouth until each pair of opposed cleaning elements is positioned between two adjacent teeth; and
pulling the oral device slowly toward the front of the mouth, causing the cleaning elements to wedge into the interproximal region between the adjacent teeth.

50. (Cancelled) ~~An oral device comprising:~~

~~a handle;~~

~~a head, extending from said handle, having a pair of elongated arms that include opposed surfaces; and~~

~~pairs of opposed cleaning elements, mounted on said opposed surfaces, said pairs of cleaning elements being positioned along said opposed surfaces at predetermined intervals, the cleaning elements being constructed and positioned to be inserted into the a user's interproximal regions when the oral device is moved back and forth with a ratcheting motion between a first direction and a second, opposite direction.~~

51. (New) The oral device of claim 35 further comprising a plurality of pairs of centering elements, mounted on said opposed surfaces and positioned to guide the oral device and center it around a tooth.

52. (New) The oral device of claim 51 wherein the centering elements are positioned so that, in use, at least two centering elements on each side are touching the teeth simultaneously.

53. (New) The oral device of claim 51 wherein said centering elements comprise elastomeric elements.

54. (New) The oral device of claim 51 wherein said centering elements comprise bristle tufts.

55. (New) The oral device of claim 51 wherein said centering elements are mounted substantially perpendicular to front and back surfaces of the user's teeth.

— 56. (New) The oral device of claim 35 wherein adjacent pairs of cleaning elements are spaced from 0.5 to 6.0 mm apart lengthwise along said arms.

— 57. (New) The oral device of claim 35 wherein said cleaning elements comprise bristle tufts.

— 58. (New) The oral device of claim 35 wherein said cleaning elements comprise elastomeric fins. *h*

— 59. (New) The oral device of claim 57 wherein at least some of the cleaning elements comprise inner, relatively longer thin bristles and outer, relatively shorter and thicker supporting bristles. *h*

A — 60. (New) The oral device of claim 57 wherein said bristles have a diameter of from about 0.003 inch to 0.009 inch. *h*

— 61. (New) An oral device comprising:
a handle;
a head, extending from said handle, having a pair of elongated arms that include opposed surfaces; and

a plurality of pairs of opposed cleaning elements, mounted on said opposed surfaces, the cleaning elements being constructed and positioned to be inserted into a user's interproximal regions when the oral device is moved back and forth over the user's teeth, each of the cleaning elements being positioned at an acute angle relative to an interproximal line;

at least some of the cleaning elements comprising inner, relatively long thin bristles and an outer, relatively shorter supporting structure surrounding the bristles.

— 62. (New) The oral device of claim 61 wherein said supporting structure comprises bristles.

— 63. (New) The oral device of claim 61 wherein said supporting structure comprises a sleeve.

shown?

— 64. (New) The oral device of claim 61 wherein said inner bristles have a diameter of about 0.004 to 0.006 inch.

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— 65. (New) The oral device of claim 62 wherein said inner bristles have a diameter of about 0.004 to 0.006 inch and said outer bristles have a diameter of about 0.007 to 0.010 inch.
